## CHURCH <br> WEEKLY



## KKC.Chacko

## $73{ }^{70}$ Death Anniversary Special

## September 2020

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## MnMRIname

It has been of great use to me when facing difficult situations and trying personal relationships，to remember，that what matters is not the extend of our efforts or contributions，but the complete childlike dependence on the Saviour＇s promise－My Grace is sufficient for thee．It is my longing that all of us may rest in the love of the Saviour and receive the Holy Spirit＇s help to continue， in a trustful attitude，co－operating with God in everything，great or small．

（Excerpts from the prayers and writings of K．C．Chacko．）

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K.C. CHACKO MEMORIAL Annual Retreat At 5 PM on Wednesday, 16 September 2020

The Alwaye Fellowship House remembers its founder Sri K.C. Chacko in a special memorial meeting on the occasion of his 73 ${ }^{\text {rd }}$ Death Anniversary. Dr. M.I. Punnoose (Bursar \& Professor of U.C. College, Aluva) will deliver the Memorial Address. The meeting will be as per Covid protocol, and will be available live on YouTube.

## "Lead Sindlly Light"

## L.teense No. 498 Dated 20-8-1946. Reg. No. T -145 THE CHURCH WEEKLU

## K. C. CHACKO MEMORIAL NUMBER.

"He is now wholly where all of him but his body has always been.
Rev. Canon W. E. S. Holland


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 fully open to His indwelling companionship; His grace


























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"In Poets as true genius is but rare,
True Taste as seldom is the Critic's share;
Both must alike from
Heav'n derive their light."




































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 1:21-23).





















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 awake in heaven I would be fully satisfied for I will see you face to face＂（Living Bible）ஸைை mใตlぁ





＂Death be not proud，
a short sleep
and I will wake up again eternally
a short voyage
and I will meet my maker face to face．＂













































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 ＂For me to live is Christ and to die is gain＂（土f） ml ）







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தேరెmவ(రె Self centred old man, Forgiveness, New childlike spirit, Commending Christ to others














































































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## The Late Sri K. C. СНАСКО

## A TRIBUTE

(A speech made at the memorial meeting held in the U.C. College, Alwaye, on Sept. 24th 1947.)

We have met to mourn the loss of a great man, and a great saint. It was with considerable diffidence, though by no means reluctantly, that I agreed to say a few words on this occasion. It is in some ways very difficult to speak of one who has meant more to us than words can say. Besides, one has a feeling that any attempt on our part to say or do anything in appreciation of him will be far from what he himself would have wished. There is only one reason which prompted me to add my humble tribute to that of many others, and it is this: Any sincere testimony to what he was and stood for might be a means of furthering the one object which held unbroken sway over his whole life, namely, the bringing of everyone and everything including himself to the total rule of God. For him indeed to live was Christ.

But I do not want in speaking to obtrude the Christian content of his life and message or to point to any halo of saintliness round his character. His greatest appeal was that of an ordinary, quite human person. Years ago when I joined this college as a student in the junior Intermediate class, I came with reports that I had heard previously about Mr. Chacko as a great saint. Through a college friend of mine
who happened to be a relation of Mr. Chacko, I got introduced to him not long after my coming. I remember my first meeting with him in the balcony of the North East Hostel, now twenty three years ago, and something of the feeling and expectation with which I went to meet the saint. I missed the solemn tone, the superior air, the pious words that I had learned to look for in a saint. For the half-an-hour or so that I remained with him the conversation centred round such ordinary topics as my studies, games, home, friendships, etc. He made no attempt to preach or dole out good advice. He was just friendly, and genuinely so. I remember when I came away I felt I would like to go to him again. And when in my own case, as in that of countless others who have come under his influence, this genuine friendly interest began to reach down to the deeper levels of life, and became more and more associated with the so called spiritual problems, his concern for the common things of life never waned but only increased. The redemption of the commonplace which is a basic principle of Christianity was also the very genius of Mr. Chacko. Religion was the breath of his life, but it was his religion, unlike that of many who profess it, which made and kept him the simple natural human person he was. All things spoke to him of the loving, living God and his life often reminded one of the truth of Mrs. Browning's
words, "Earth is crammed with heaven and every common bush aflame with God." And everything in life he approached with the mind of Christ, and of everything he was able to make, by God's help, a sacrament of friendship with God and man. This, it seems to me, was the secret of his success and saintliness.

A deep reverence for the personalities of others characterised all his dealings with people. He never biased another's judgement or relieved another of his responsibility. To the many friends who took their problems to him he never once suggested answers. Ever most willing and anxious to help, he was careful to restrict his help to advising them how to find the answer for themselves. Like the true leader he was he succeeded in drawing out the best in people and helped them to be themselves.

Coupled with this reverence for personality was his reverence for truth. His exactness in the use of language, his slowly weighed words so free of exaggeration were remarkable. It has been said of some great man in a different context that his was the sole voice among many echoes. This is eminently true of Mr. Chacko. In a world of too many empty words and hollow professions he rang true.

It is easy to dwell at great length on his many virtues and the many elements of his highly evolved Christian character; as for example his love which never let down nor let go others, his peace which the worst combination of human factors never ruffled, his patience which never gave way, his joy which kept welling up like a perennial spring no matter what befell him, his deep humility which to my knowledge was never provoked into resentment or an unloving judgement.

One could dwell at length on these and other points in his character. But I shall now refrain from doing so. It is enough to refer to some more general considerations. There was a bigness and wholeness about him which reminded one of Jesus. He was able to combine to a remarkable degree many apparently conflicting qualities and to achieve a poise and richness and depth of character which is all too rare. Take for example the balancing in him of humility and dignity. He could be utterly humble without making himself cheap, and highly dignified without the trace of pride and presumption. He could without effort make the least of us at home with him, and at the same time attract and absorb those more highly placed whether intellectually or socially. Or again take his simplicity and his shrewdness. He has often reminded me of the Lord Jesus' words 'Be ye innocent as doves and wise as serpents.' These terms may have varied shades of meaning and may therefore be misunderstood, but I have no doubt that in a very real sense Mr. Chacko was both innocent and wise. Those who have known him well could not have failed to notice that he was the one man who was not deceived by appearances or deflected from the exercise of charity by ordinary human considerations.

Or again let us turn to another happy blend in his character-that signified by two words, used in the Bible to describe Christ's character, I mean grace and truth. Our Lord was full of grace and truth and this humble servant of his reflected the same trait in great measure - grace standing for that whole set of qualities like love, affection, generosity, goodwill, mercy, and truth representing the sterner side of love.

Mr. Chacko's love was an 'affectionate interest in people', but there was nothing sentimental about it. He is the one leader I have known, in whose friendship people were quite safe. Possessiveness and favouritism which are the bane of ordinary friendship were absent from his. Someone has defined love as 'the identification with God's interest in others.' Mr. Chacko's was that. There was a sternness and an uncompromisingness in this meek and gentle friend which was unrelenting and at times almost frightening to those who stood close to him. He loved people in God and for God and on no other level and the blend of grace and truth in his character was, I have no doubt, one of his greatest achievements.

Another thing which has struck me was that while truly handling money and other material resources he was able to practise an almost perfect detachment from them. They never entered his heart nor coloured his reactions to men and affairs. He has left practically nothing behind which we can call his own. And yet he lacked nothing. This unafraid use of material gifts coupled with such perfect detachment one rarely finds where one has reason to expect them, even in lives committed to vows of poverty and service.

Yet another thing was his singular freedom from love of human applause. He really preferred to be behind the curtain. But we must remember that he was not a recluse, or one who hid his light under a bushel. He was one who pioneered a college and worked with men incessantly till his very last day on earth. How he steered completely clear of the least desire for fame, and the least failure to do his utmost, has often been a wonder to me, though he being what he was, I could very well understand how he did it.

Let me just refer to one more thing-his treatment of the body. While often people's interests and the interests of God's kingdom in general absorbed and filled his mind to the point of self-forgetfulness, he attended to the needs of his body with a sacredness and a care which he felt was due to 'the temple of the Holy Spirit'. He took pains to keep his body a fit vehicle of the Spirit. Well, these are some of the elements of a perfect life and a hallmark of real saintliness. I can go on enumerating others, but I must call a halt.

In the sphere of inner character the silent victories he has won and the achievements that stand to his credit are such as deserve to be known more widely and will, I am sure, continue to inspire other lives for years to come and be instrumental in leading many more to the source of all his greatnessChrist.

I shall leave untouched his achievements in the outer spheres of life-institutions and causes he laboured to shape and advance and on which he has left the imprint of his spirit. To him people mattered infinitely more than things, and the spirit more than the institutions that sought to embody and express it. As Baron Von Hugel has said about Christianity he "has taught us to care for people. Caring is the greatest thing, caring matters most". As one who has had the privilege, with many others, to know him intimately and to live and work for years at close quarters to him, as an old student of the College, and as a member of the Settlement, though I do not officially represent either of these, I pay my humble and respectful tribute to my late lamented master to whom I owe a debt of gratitude too deep for words.


## Article by

Deacon K.C. Joseph (Late Rev. K.C. Joseph) in the Church Weekly dated October 19, 1947.

## К. С. СНАСКО

## A TRIBUTE - BY A GRATEFUL DISCIPLE

$I_{t}$ is with a sense of deep gratitude that I join other friends in paying this humble tribute to the dear departed Guru who while he lived never sought any honour for himself. Meek and gentle like his Master, Mr. K. C. Chacko was a true friend of all those "who longed to do God's will, yet stumbled continually." Graciously he gave of his very best to everyone; but always he seemed to be receiving. He considered himself a debtor to all for Christ's sake and laboured night and day as a messenger of peace to all those who laboured and were heavy-laden. He never rejected or ignored anyone who came to him with a need. I too was one among those who needed him. Having received so much from him, I wish I had words to give a fitting tribute to this great friend. But words fail where the reality is too great.

Till the moment when the last telephone from Trivandrum came, I was not prepared to think that Mr. Chacko might leave us so soon. His frail body had always been so much under the control of his indefatigable spirit that I sincerely believed that he would hold out for many more years. But it pleased God to take His servant away for needed service elsewhere.

Like many others who loved him, I have been trying, ever since his departure, to turn my thoughts away from him so as to
be able to concentrate on the work which had to be done. But I cannot help going back again and again to some of the vivid impressions of his life. The picture of his coming out of the Warden's room in the North East Hostel night after night with folded hands and a kindly smile on his benign face to take roll-call, the occasion when he read to us at evening prayer in the hostel that comforting passage on "Casting all your care upon Him for He careth for you", his solemn posture on the verandah outside the Warden's room on the first floor of the North East Hostel where he stood motionless for at least an hour every morning and evening meditating on the love of God, the spotlessly clean clothes that he always wore when he walked briskly to the College with an evident concentration on the things he had in his mind, the kindly graciousness with which lying on an easy chair he offered a seat near him to any student who came to meet him, the genuine joy he felt in all our joys and the echoing laughter which tripped up the pious ones who expected him to be always solemn and long faced, the patience and sympathy he showed in all things great and small-these and many, many, other things about him recur to one's mind again and again and refuse to be forgotten.

My mind is far too confused to analyse and describe the many-sided character and achievements of Mr. Chacko. But three things about him stand out so clearly that they cannot be missed. The first is his profound reverence for the personalities of others and his gracious courtesy to all. The second is his deep and unfailing loyalty to all who had anything to do with him; if you trusted him with any need in your life, you could be absolutely confident that he would stand by you to the very end. The third is his never-shaken confidence in the absolute sufficiency of Christ's love and resources in all circumstances.

Mr. Chacko lived, and moved, and had his being in God and to know him was to know God's love. The individuals, groups and families for whom he was the unobtrusive adviser are too many to mention. He hallowed everything he touched.

If the word success has any meaning, Mr. Chacko's life was a great success. He was always preoccupied with the Father's business and he passed on to the other side in the midst of this preoccupation. The fruits of his ministry we have only begun to see. The Union Christian College is only one of them. Mr. Chacko's life was like a pebble dropped on the motionless waters of a vast inland sea. It sank to the bottom and soon disappeared into the unseen depths. But the ripples, to which it gave rise expand on all sides in an unending succession of ever widening circles and reach the farthest shores gently shaking up everything on their way. Mr. Chacko lived in the most quiet manner possible and he has disappeared almost without notice; but the currents of true life that
emanated from him shall go on even after he is forgotten.

Mr. Chacko's life was a life of sustained self-abnegation. His one desire when he met people was that he should decrease and Christ should increase in their lives. And his departure is a challenge to us to awake to our greater need of being more and more open to Christ's indwelling leadership.

It seems to me that Mr. Chacko belonged to the category of men to which St. Francis of Assissi belonged, and I shall close this tribute by applying to him words written about St. Francis by one of his many admirers. Adapting those words to suit the present purpose I would like to say, "Do not tell me that Mr. K.C Chacko has died. The spirit of change captured his body and buried it in a Church in Central Travancore, but it could not catch him. His spirit slipped through all the barriers that tried to imprison him. It broke through all the infirmities of his frail human body. And it emerged to be at the head of an invisible order, the order of those who can see his vision in its fullness. The memory of Mr. Chacko lives not in anything that he has written or in anything that might be written about him or even in any of the institutions he built up, but in the lives of the hundreds whom he taught how to live. He preached, not by words, but by his life, one of the most effective Christian sermons that have ever been preached, a sermon which will continue to work its gentle ferment and attain its design, because if in reading it we learn to love him, we must find ourselves loving also his Master and his Model-the Lord Jesus Christ."

## Sri K.C. Chacko: The lrresistible influence



There are some people who make a conscious effort to create an impression on others; but the more they try, the less they are able to do it; spontaneous behavior usually attracts much more attention. The desire to attract attention is a form of pride; that is, you would like to be praised by everyone. It can also be a feeling of inferiority; when you compare yourself with another person, you may look less bright, and it hurts you to be so. There are certain others whose brightness or the lack of it would be noticed more by others, as they themselves have more important things to think about. An empty mind gets filled with worries and cares.

Sri K.C. Chacko was a person who always had a number of such important matters on his mind that he had no time to think about himself. Matters concerning himself never found a place in his mind so that the need to project himself never occurred to him. This precisely was the reason why others found him so approachable and so attractive. Being totally oblivious of it, he wielded an influence on whoever came into contact with him - a kind of influence which was almost irresistible.

Leading a God-centered life, a life of prayer and meditation, spending most of his waking time reading or thinking, reclining in a canvas chair, getting up only occasionally, listening much more to others than speaking: this is the kind of man he was, but his face had a radiance which no one failed to notice; it attracted
people towards him. The more closely they got to know him the more deeply they were touched by his personality; it created longlasting impressions upon their minds. Three quarters of a century after his death, there still are a handful of people, scattered across the globe, who continue to think of him with respect and affection. People who forget themselves are remembered for long by others.

Many of the projects that Sri K.C. Chacko dreamed about were carried out after his death by others who respected his views; his aspirations and ambitions didn't die with him. If a project lives on after the death of the person who initiated it, then it should mean that the man behind it was honoured highly by those who followed him; otherwise it would die with him.

Sri K.C. Chako dreamed about the Alwaye Fellowship House, but he did not live to see his dream materialize. It was after his death that some of his close friends got together to start it. The Fellowship House came into being, and lived on to give birth to Chacko Homes at an appropriate time. Sri Chacko continues to be the guiding spirit behind all this, three quarters of a century after his death. Such was the power of the influence that he wielded on those who followed him closely - people like Sri M. Thommen, Sri P.C. Kurien and Sri N.M. Abraham, all of whom have long since joined their mentor in that blessed state beyond the grave.

## R.C.C. Memorial Dr. Raju K. John

Prof. K. C. Chacko's experiments with the truth and

## the Union Christian College Fellowship

The motto of Union Christian College, Aluva, is 'The truth shall make you free.' One of the questions that frequently came up in my interactions with students, as Principal, was related to the motto of the College. They wanted to know the reason for using 'the truth' instead of 'truth.' Truth, they argue, can have only one version whereas a lie can have different versions and hence use of the article the is redundant. Prof. T. R. Anantharaman, a great scholar and a highly respected faculty member, had argued on similar lines at the time of adoption of the motto. Truth, as we know, might set one free, but very often it might bring hardships, incarceration and even death. Incarceration and death of John, the Baptist, is a case in point.

The College motto is taken from John 8: 31-32. Then Jesus said to those Jews who believed Him, "If you abide in my word, you are my disciples indeed. And you shall know the truth, and the truth shall make you free." The freedom Jesus spoke of doesn't come from just an academic pursuit of truth in general; but
from abiding in His word and being His disciple. Prof. K. C. Chacko's life was a series of experiments to know 'the truth' and to experience the freedom that comes out of it. The Fellowship that he founded which led to the establishment of the Union Christian College was one such experiment.

Prof. K. C. Chacko was a man of prayer. He believed that a true Christian must have a sure response to his prayer. The following verses from the New Testament formed the bases for that belief:

John 15:7 "If you abide in me, and my words abide in you, you will ask what you desire, and it shall be done for you."

John 16: 23-24 "And in that day, you will ask me nothing. Most assuredly, I say to you, whatever you ask the Father in my name He will give you. Until now you have asked nothing in my name. Ask, and you will receive, that your joy may be full."

Rom. 8: 32 "He that spared not his own Son, but delivered him up for us all,
how shall he not with him also freely give us all things?"

Most of the Christians cannot but doubt that there must be some catch somewhere in these promises. How else can the volume of unanswered prayers daily grow to vast magnitudes in the lives of most of us? Abiding in Jesus imparts to a Christian the spirit of Sonship. (Both women and men are included in the notion of divine sonship. In order to preserve the unique nature of Jesus's divine sonship, the Gospel of John reserves the word 'son' (huios ) for Jesus and employs a different word tekna while referring to believers as children of God. The word tekna is a gender-neutral word). Praying in Christ's name is also praying in the spirit of a child. By abiding in Christ the individual truly becomes a true child of God, the object of God's love and care.
K.C. Chacko's belief that a true Christian must have the experience of answer to prayer was a logical consequence of this oneness with Jesus and the spirit of sonship we acquire thereby. A child's prayer is not addressed to a void, but to the father. And how can a child's trust in a loving father of absolute power and wisdom grow if his trust in the father is betrayed and his prayers go without a positive response? Our trouble really is not that we ask too much but too little and that too in the spirit of a beggar or slave and not in the spirit of a son addressing God 'Abba, Father'.

Abiding in Jesus is not easy for any
of us because of our inherent selfcentredness, the enemy of our true self. The spirit of sonship can be preserved against our self-centredness through a promise given to us by our Lord. We may call this means of grace as the fellowship of two or three.

Mathew 18: 19-20 "Again I say unto you, that if two of you shall agree on earth as touching anything that they shall ask, it shall be done for them of my Father which is in heaven. For where two or three are gathered together in my name, there am I in the midst of them."

The point is that the twos and threes should come together in the name of Jesus, in the spirit of sonship imparted by Jesus, desiring his presence amidst them and seeking the will of the Heavenly Father above all else.

The promise given in St. Mathew 18: 19-20 is a promise to disciples who want the presence of the master above everything else, and none of us is more than a faint-hearted disciple at best. This is not a promise to isolated individuals but to a group who have been brought together, who are united by following in the way Christ pointed out, who are comrades and partners in the service of others. Being brought together in Christ's name does not mean merely meeting together or being inspired by mass emotion; it means coming to that unity of mind and spirit and purpose which only the intimacy and common experience of a small group can produce.

There is nothing, Christ tells us, which such a group cannot do. They have, as no other organisation can have, the power of God behind them.

While helping individuals to discover and discard any self - centred tendencies in their thinking and feeling, a fellowship stimulates and sustains the faith which alone leads to fruitful and effective action. Where individuals are apt to be weak or wavering or self - centred or one-sided, a fellowship so sustains and disciplines them as to make possible a truer discernment of God's will and a deeper appreciation of the power to fulfil it. But there are some pitfalls in the ways of the Fellowship.

Struggle for position of leadership and personal gain and popularity could destroy the Fellowship. Jesus himself was conscious of the weakness of his disciples at this point (who is greatest). Jesus was uncompromising on the need for real humility. Jesus went as far as to state unmistakably that belief itself becomes impossible for those who seek prestige and honour within the group (John 5: 44). As Jesus was leading the disciples to Jerusalem to his betrayal and humiliation, there was murmuring
in the group and Jesus had to state the unmistakable law: "How can you believe if you accept praise from one of another, yet make no effort to obtain the praise that comes form the only God?" (John 5:44). Jesus concluded his ministry by an acted parable - washing the feet of the disciples and interpreting the core meaning of the acted parable (John 13: 1-17).

What should inspire us is that Prof. K. C. Chacko appropriated the promise behind this means of grace - the Fellowship in the times of crises and trying situations he had to face in life. In the face of a fatal disease, he founded the Union Christian College from scratch and attempted to bring unity to his church torn by rivalry and litigation.

Fellowship forms the basis of the institutions founded and inspired by him and hence neglect and misuse of the Fellowship would cause the fall and death of these institutions.

Ref: Some Aspects of the Message of K.C. Chacko by Prof. T.B. Thomas, K. C. Chacko-The Man And His Message published by Inter Church Fellowship, Union Christian College, Alwaye, November 1997.


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# ACTUALLIT <br> DON'T KNOW... 



Corona has taught us a lot of lessons - so do people say! Some of the sayings are:

Corona is God's punishment... for man's extravagance, abuse of Nature, all kinds of misbehaviour, etc...

Nay... God is Love... He will not do so... this is man's creation... more specifically it is the Chinese invention for mass destruction...

Corona cannot travel beyond 3 feet... it cannot spread through the air...

But it has actually spread in almost 200 countries at lightning speed...

Corona cannot survive in heat... it will flourish in the cold... soap can kill it... mask can block it... sanitizer can deactivate it... Homeo can prevent it... a mixture of ginger, pepper and honey can drive it away... two shots of brandy with honey will be a better option... we don't know what is correct and what is not!!!

Even the WHO is groping in the dark... they make some statements just to make their presence known and to officialise what we already know...

As Corona started its deadly dance, we withdrew from the roads, we remained inside our houses, started wearing masks, "wearing mask" lost its negative meaning, we ate homely food, roadside food became forbidden fruit, we learned social distancing, we stopped shaking hands and hugging, we started avoiding functions, we learned to live without spending much (not to forget that we started earning less), we reduced our hospital visits... But actually we wonder whether this Corona was necessary at all to make all these changes?

With all the facts and fiction in circulation, we don't know the actuals about Corona! So is our perception of God!!

We think we know all about God... If it were so, there is no need for so many religions. All of us would have believed the same thing. There would have been no difference of opinions. Maybe we agree on one point... that God is the Creator. Then we introduced 'sin' to break away from God... and we looked upon Him with our human eyes and interpretations... we saw God as a cruel ruler who enjoys punishing us for our shortcomings... the gap between man and God widened; we made futile attempts to please God by killing living creatures as sacrifice. Then Jesus Christ came... He told us that God is our Father... that God is Love... that God is ready to sacrifice His Son to redeem us... We elaborate this and end up with the Last Judgment... We know the way to the promised Heaven... but alas, we don't know the right way to live here on this earth!

Let us now define God on the basis of our experiences... That is what King David has done in the Psalms... He underwent a lot of ups and downs in his relation with God... he looked at God from different angles... he summarised his views in the Psalms... St. Thomas put it briefly as "My Lord and My God!". He is the God who is with you always...

If we don't know much about the smallest Corona, how will we understand the greatest God? We don't want to have a personal experience of Corona... but we should have a personal relationship with God... we should feel God... we should taste God... who is near us... with us... within us... and around us. He is IMMANUEL - God with us!

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